

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

2005 Hill, P.J., et. al.
A Phase II Archeological Evaluation of Sites 18PR79, 18PR580, 18PR659, 18PR665, 18PR669, and 18PR677 within Oak Creek Club: a 900-Acre+ Property Located on Church Road South in Prince George's County, Maryland.
Submitted to the Oak Creek Club Corporation

Research Firm/Institution:

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Sites examined:

18PR79	18PR580	18PR659	18PR665	18PR669	18PR677
		NRHP Eligible: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NRHP Eligible: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NRHP Eligible: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NRHP Eligible: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Justification	Justification	Justification	Justification

Project Details:

Phase I	
Phase II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Phase III	

Project Justification:
This report describes Phase II archeological evaluation in November of 2004 at six previously identified sites in Prince George's County. These sites were identified during Phase I work in 1999 and 2004 involving the survey of the 900+ acre Oak Creek Club property. Archeological evaluations efforts were connected with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the application for a wetland permit through the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Maryland Department of the Environment. Each of these potentially significant sites had been determined to be threatened by the (then) proposed development of a residential golf course community.

MAC Accession: 2005.021

Project Objectives:

- Determine if any of the previously identified sites are unique and/or whether or not they have research value.
- Assess the stratigraphic integrity of all six sites.
- Locate any intact cultural features that may be preserved at the various sites.
- Determine the significance (if any) of each site.
- Determine if any of the sites are eligible for listing on the MRHP using National Register criteria.

Research Potential:

Although an attempt was made to evaluate Site 18PR79, the prehistoric resource could not be relocated. A determination of significance was, thus, not possible for the resource.

Ultimately, due to the evidence of disturbance encountered during the Phase II the evaluated eastern portion of Site 18PR580 was not thought to be significant or offer additional research value to Prince George's County or greater Maryland beyond that already presented during the 2004 investigation. However, because only a portion of this resource was evaluated, the National Register eligibility of 18PR580 (as a whole) is still considered undetermined.

Site 18PR580 appears to be the remains of the mid 18th to early 19th century farmstead of occupants with modest socio-economic status. The site may be associated with a tenant farmer and, based on these conclusions the site would have value to researchers. However, the potential of the site was found lacking due to poor stratigraphic integrity and the absence of intact cultural features (particularly in the form of buried artifact deposits). The extensive history of agriculture and natural erosional processes dramatically impacted the yards connected with this historic residence, leaving its soils completely disturbed and laden with mixed artifacts. Based on this information, Site 18PR659 was not thought to be a significant archeological resource or offer additional research value to Prince George's County or greater Maryland beyond that already explored during the 2004 investigation. Site 18PR659 was not thought to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

In general, the artifacts recovered from Site 18PR665 represented a wide time range. However, the majority of artifacts were affiliated with the early to mid 18th century. Notably lacking from the site was a significant assemblage of creamware, implying that occupation preceded its introduction in the 1760s. This occupation would have pre-dated the Bowie family's ownership of the property and the construction of the Bowieville manor house. At this early era, the property was likely occupied by a middle class planter or seated by a tenant farmer. However, the research potential of this site was lowered by a mostly fair-to-poor level of stratigraphic integrity and the absence of intact cultural features and buried artifact deposits. The possible razing of historic structures, an extensive history of agricultural plowing, and natural erosional and depositional processes dramatically impacted the yards connected with the residence at 18PR665. Due to disturbance, the site was determined not to be a significant archeological resource.

The artifacts recovered from 18PR669 reveal that the site was occupied between the 18th and 20th centuries, most likely by a tenant farmer and their family. Given these conclusion, the site was thought to have potential research value. The research potential of the site, however, was dramatically reduced by the lack of soils with good stratigraphic integrity, minor and displaced artifact recovery, and absence of intact cultural features. Apparently, the extensive history of agriculture at this site has left its soils completely disturbed. The site is not a significant archeological resource.

Based on the timer period represented and the potential linkage to a rural county medical practitioner (a little studied context), 18PR677 was thought to have potential research value. The research potential of the site, however, was dramatically reduced by a lack of integrity. No intact cultural features or buried artifact deposits were discovered in the site area. Thus, instead of recovering sealed layers of 19th century domestic artifacts, the recovery was mixed with a few prehistoric and 18th century materials, as well as 20th century artifacts, including some modern items. This mix was clearly related to natural disturbances (such as active erosion and bioturbation), as well as cultural forms (including excavation, grading, landscaping, and plowing) associated with 20th century occupation of the property. In addition, the overall artifact recovery was in poor condition. Specimens were highly fragmented, metal was largely corroded, and faunal remains were few. The site is not a significant archeological resource.